

However, the possibility of artificial introduction was mentioned at the time and there is evidence to show that the practise did take place. Just as in modern times with other species, secret introductions may have partially clouded the intimate history of the Comma; before 1881 hundreds of larvae and pupae were released "in Surrey and elsewhere, hoping to introduce the species, but without success" (Hutchinson, 1881).

The evidence in favour of immigration from the continent being a factor in the history of this species in this country, within entomological historical times, is very limited – both in the number of reported "migrations", the circumstances surrounding these events, and the number of individuals involved. Modern authorities seem divided over the possibility, although it is positively listed as an immigrant by some (Chalmers-Hunt, 1960; Riley, 1970); it is more likely to be a species which is continually changing its range rather than, vagrants apart, being an immigrant in the accepted sense.

(to be continued)

---

---

CELASTRINA ARGIOLUS LINN IN FEBRUARY – In reply to Mr. J. E. Green's request for records of early sightings of blue butterflies (*Ent. Rec.* 98: 39-40) the following may be of note. On 24th February 1985, while successfully surveying the hedgerows for brown hairstreak, a male holly blue was observed for about 20 seconds near a village by the name of Kingsdon, Somerset (ST 530 270). That day was particularly warm and sunny but despite this the only other adult butterflies to be seen were two male brimstones. – N. W. LEAR, 178 St. John's Lane, Bedminster, Bristol BS3 5AR.

SCELIODES LAISALIS (WALKER) (PYRALIDAE) IN LEICESTERSHIRE – On 29 July a specimen of *Sceliodes laisalis* was collected from an m.v. trap operated in my garden at the address below. This appears to be the fourth British record, and the second chronologically. The moth was first reported in Middlesex in 1973, and there are single records for Surrey (1983) and Bedfordshire (1983) (Goater, B. 1986. *British pyralid moths*, Harley Books, Colchester). My specimen remained un-named until 1986 when it was submitted to Mark Sterling who kindly identified it.

*Sceliodes laisalis* is an African moth, recorded in Europe, and is reported to feed as a larva on tomato. Almost certainly the records thus far are of vagrant immigrants, but the possibility of importation with tomatoes (unlikely from Africa) cannot be ruled out. DENIS F. OWEN, 66 Scraftoft Lane, Leicester LE5 1HU.